



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Rural Development

1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20250-0700

Phone: (202) 690-1384 • Fax: (202) 690-4083 • TDD: (202) 720-6382 • Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

Weldon Freeman (202) 690-1384

RURAL DEVELOPMENT HONORS MULTI-FAMILY PROPERTY SITE MANAGERS

WASHINGTON, July 14, 2008 -- Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary for Rural Development Douglas L. Faulkner today announced the recipients of the National Multi-Family Housing Site Managers of the Year award for 2008.

"USDA Rural Development's site managers contribute to the success of our rental housing properties by bringing value and quality managerial skills to the day-to-day operations of multi-family units in rural communities," Faulkner said. "These managers often invest a great deal of their own time into ensuring that rural tenants have decent, safe and affordable dwellings. Rural Development is pleased to honor their hard work and commitment."

Dorothy Water, site manager for Ryan School Apartments in Shipman, Va., and Debbie Jenson, manager of Lincoln Apartments in Pierre, S.D., received the Elderly Housing Management of the Year Award. Denise Smith of Lenox, Iowa, earned honors as Family Manager of the Year.

The selections were based on tenant satisfaction, property curb appeal, accuracy of recordkeeping and the manager's actions exceeding expectations. Representatives from Rural Development and the Council for Affordable and Rural Housing selected Water, Jenson and Smith from 22 nominations received from 17 states.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development has invested more than \$90 billion since 2001 for equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. More than 1.7 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

#

Committed to the future of rural communities.

"USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender."

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).